

27 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence
25X1A9a

ATTENTION:

Assistant to DD/I (NSC)

FROM:

Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Desirability of Detailed Study on Cambodia

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1. I refer to your memorandum to me of 26 January 1956 (with two enclosures) on the subject of the desirability of developing a "fairly detailed study of the social and political structure of Cambodia" as proposed 25X1A9a for 25X1A5a1

2. My views are in consonance with those expressed by State in Joseph Yager's memorandum of 24 January 1956. Under the NIS Program State is actively engaged in developing the sociological and political chapters on Cambodia which should adequately satisfy this requirement. Eight of the sections have been published within the last three years, and the remaining thirteen sections are either in production and review or have been scheduled for completion in the next two fiscal years. Provision is made under the NIS Maintenance Program to revise the sections as the situation warrants. Parenthetically, I have noted on Yager's memorandum the publication or scheduled production dates abreast of the sections which he has listed.

3. I cannot, therefore, see any real justification for initiating a study under the auspices of 25X1A5a1 and I can see undesirable aspects to doing so. A similar situation occurred in the development of PsyWar requirements under the auspices of the 25X1A5a1

in the course of which considerable funds were expended by the Office of the Chief, Psychological Warfare, in a program largely duplicating that of the NIS. Prototype studies produced under this program show serious deficiencies in comparison with related NIS. It is my opinion that, should additional political or sociological research be necessary on Cambodia, it should be undertaken by State in order to provide specific guidance and direction and to avoid unnecessary costs and duplication of effort.

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*Country
Studies*